

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

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The following table contains 100 cells, 99 of which contain a word or name (in bold type), with a brief description of the word or name if it is relatively unfamiliar (not in bold type).

Can you work out the logic behind the words and names, and why they appear in the particular order shown in the table?

One of the cells contains the message < **This item has been deliberately left blank. Can any reader fill it? >**. That should be self-explanatory!

Additionally, can readers come up with better or more interesting examples for the 99 cells already filled in?

lambada A fast, rhythmical, and erotic dance of Brazilian origin	rumenotomy Incision into the rumen, one of the compartments of a cow's stomach
koalas Australian arboreal marsupials	jaunce A prance
organza A sheer dress fabric	pinhole
ransacks	rockallite A granular rock, composed of aegirite, acmite, quartz and albite, named after Rockall, a rock island in the north Atlantic
fractional	mascarpone A very mild cow's milk cheese with a soft, creamy consistency, originating from the Lombardy region of Italy
doctoral	endive An annual or biennial herb widely cultivated as a salad plant
noctilucent Luminescent at night or in the dark	hydrator Something which hydrates, takes or combines with water
readable	coder
cordial	allesthesia A medical condition in which a sensation is referred to a location other than that to which the sensory stimulus was applied or presented, often to the same place on the opposite side of the body
foggier	blatant
Isaiah	monohull

A major Hebrew prophet of the 8th century BC	A vessel (such as a sailboat) with a single hull
avoid	jibes
zillions Large indeterminate numbers	girlfriends
diarian Of or pertaining to a diary or journal	Plains Indian An Indian of the Algonquian, Athapaskan, Caddo, Kiowa, Siouan, or Uto-Aztecan nomadic peoples formerly inhabiting the Great Plains of central United States and Canada
avow	sediments
saunas	pocket
kyutchek A musical genre and dance that emerged in the Balkans during the early 19th century – also spelled čoček	affronter A person who insults another; a person who causes offence
Lusitania An old and poetic name for Portugal	tobogganer One who rides on a toboggan
image	auslaut The final sound in a word or syllable
randomly	nationals
Setsumatsusha In Japan, small or miniature shrines entrusted to the care of a larger shrine	snooty Haughtily or arrogantly contemptuous
claiming	maligns Utters injuriously misleading or deliberately and injuriously false reports about
innermost	tarpaulin Waterproofed canvas or other waterproof material
< This item has been deliberately left blank. Can any reader fill it? >	cajones Box canyons
squirism The dignity, position or status of a squire	Cousin Jeffery An unseen <i>Seinfeld</i> character who makes his first appearance when Uncle Leo mentions him in <i>The Pony Remark</i> (the second episode of the second season of the NBC sitcom <i>Seinfeld</i> , and the seventh episode overall)
antonym A word of opposite meaning	enamel
bearskin An often large full-dress military hat made of bearskin	lanolin Wool grease refined for use chiefly in ointments and cosmetics
agenda	conspiracy
Humanisphere Joseph Déjacque (1821-1864) was a French anarcho-communist poet and writer; he wrote his famous anarchist utopia <i>L'Humanisphère</i> , <i>Utopie anarchique</i> , which is often rendered into English as <i>The Humanisphere</i> . Déjacque's	raccoon An omnivorous, cat-sized American mammal, typically nocturnal and often arboreal

Humanisphere, or community with attractive work, was to have no hours of work nor obligatory groupings - work could be done in isolation or otherwise	
Mr. Sweeney Mr. Sweeney is the science teacher in the TV series <i>Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide</i> , and is played by American actor Don Creech	portent An omen or sign
Niemczewo A village in east-central Poland, lying approximately 2 miles east of Drobin, 19 miles north-east of Płock, and 55 miles north-west of Warsaw	peasant
network	layman
nonrhetorical Not rhetorical. This appears in the long list of undefined words beginning with non- in Webster's Second Edition	glacier
katabothron A subterranean channel or deep chasm formed by the action of water	buckrams Stiff-finished heavily-sized fabrics of cotton or linen used in bookbinding
hoot	cumulose Full of heaps
Yokohama A city in southeast Honshu, Japan	Koichi Toyama A Japanese street musician and fringe political activist (born 1970) who was a candidate for the governor of Tokyo in 2007
groove	axles
Paiva's blenny A species of comb-tooth blenny (a fish) found in Brazil - its scientific name is <i>Lupinoblennius paivai</i>	glair brush An artist's "ground" brush, 0.75 inch wide, and with soft bristles set in rubber and used in applying glair (a sizing liquid made from egg white beaten with vinegar) and applied to book covers or to book edges
doorhandles	proceeding
arachnologist Someone who studies spiders	subclaim A claim dependent on or arising out of another
Shota Otsuka A Japanese football player currently playing for Mito HollyHock, a Japanese professional football club	rewire
sentences	leavenish Resembling leaven, a substance which produces fermentation, especially in bread
stale	giants
aunt	ecstatically
monster	incomplete
arriving	harmonic
nightgowns	optimal

revitalising	orchestral
incisions	diamond
worming	fenchene Any of several isomeric liquid terpenes $C_{10}H_{16}$ obtained especially by dehydration of fenchyl alcohol

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

Answer:

Each of the 50 rows represents a US state (in the left column) and the corresponding state capital (in the right column). The state names are ordered alphabetically. Each of the 99 cells contains a transsubstitution of the state name or the state capital name – that is, each name has one letter deleted, a different letter substituted in its place, and the remaining letters transposed to create a different word or name. So, for example, ALABAMA has an A deleted, a D substituted, and the new set of letters then transposed to LAMBADA. Transsubstitutions can be found for 99 of the 100 state/state capital combinations, the exception being for MISSISSIPPI. As posed in the article, can anyone find a reasonable transsubstitution for MISSISSIPPI?



Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross,
To see an old woman upon a white horse.
With rings on her fingers and bells on her toes
She shall have music wherever she goes.